

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Mass Awareness Campaign Through IT Yatras

346. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Government propose to launch a mass awareness campaign through IT Yatras;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether it would be successful with the present literacy rate of the masses?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Information Technology had set up a Working Group on IT for Masses which submitted its report on 29.07.2000. Towards mass campaign for IT awareness, the report recommends that IT Yatras should be launched under the leadership of prominent citizens/celebrities in different parts of the country and the Yatras to be conducted during the period 7th November, 2000 to 30th June, 2001 spread over three phases to be financed by the Central Government, State Government and industries equally.

(c) Literacy including computer literacy is useful to avail of the full benefits of Information Technology. However, the benefits of IT can be availed of by illiterates also, for example, by obtaining through Internet information on prevailing agricultural prices.

Impact of Fish Import on Fish Industry

*347. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fish industry is protesting against the move to permit fish imports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of fish import on internal fish industry?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is being represented that the import of fish will adversely affect the income of fishermen, and will be detrimental to the growth of fishing industry in India.

(c) Government have no reports of fish imports adversely affecting the internal fish industry.

Confinement of People of Indian Origin in Gurudwaras of Afghanistan

***348. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR:**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any information that many people of Indian origin were still being kept confined within the local Gurudwaras of Afghanistan and not permitted to return to India; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Taliban pursue a policy of harsh discrimination against minorities including religious minorities. Government does not have any information about the detention of people of Indian origin in Gurudwaras in Afghanistan.

(b) Does not arise.

Reference to Central Legislation on Agricultural Labour at ILO

***349. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:** Will the Minister of **LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representative of India, while participating in ILO session, recently held in Geneva, referred to Central Legislation on agricultural labour which is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, contexts for such a reference;